



## Film Permits

It is the policy of the National Park Service (NPS) to allow filming and photography when it is consistent with the protection and public enjoyment of park resources and does not interfere with the public's normal use and enjoyment of the park. Permits are required if the filming, videotaping, sound recording, or still photography:

- Involves the use of a model (or any on-camera talent), set, or prop
- Involves taking photographs of vehicles or other articles of commerce for the purpose of commercial advertising
- Could result in damage to park resources
- Could result in significant disruption of normal visitor use
- Requires access to areas normally closed to the visiting public

Generally, permits are NOT required for:

- Visitors using cameras and/or recording devices for their own personal use
- Sound technicians, and film or video news crews at breaking news events
- NPS filming or photography, Department of the Interior Audiovisual Center filming,

or filming/photography done pursuant to a cooperative agreement or contract. A request for a filming or photography permit may be denied if:

- In the opinion of the Superintendent or his/her designee, the filming activity requested represents a potential for harm or impact on the park's natural, cultural, wilderness or recreational resources, may create health or safety risks, or disrupt visitor use and enjoyment
- It is determined that supervisory requirements for the proposed project will place unreasonable burdens on park staff, regardless of the applicant's willingness to pay supervisory costs
- The permittee fails to obtain insurance/bonding, or to agree to pay assessed cost recovery
- The proposed filming or photography would conflict with the visitors' normal use of the park
- The request includes entry into areas closed to the general visiting public, or which would allow activities not permitted to the average visitor

### Permit Fees

Applicants must submit a check or money order in the amount of \$100.00 made payable to the National Park Service (NPS) to cover non-refundable application costs. The *check* or *money order* must record the applicant's Social Security number (SSN) or Tax Identification number (TIN) in accordance with the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. Companies must include a TIN on their *application* also.

All costs of evaluating the request will be billed to the applicant, whether a permit is issued or not.

Any fees applicable will be determined on a case by case basis. The permittee will be advised of any such fees prior to receiving a permit. These fees are described below.

### Application Process

Complete the Application for Photography/Filming Permit (Short or Long Form) and submit it to the Mount Rainier National Park Permit Office at least ten (10) business days before your start date for filming in the park. Use the "short form" for still photography and smaller video/ film projects. Use the "long form" for more complicated video/film projects where more information is required to evaluate the application. Complete an Application for Photography Filming Permit and submit it, along with the \$100.00 fee, to the Mount Rainier National Park Permit Office. Please submit your application

at least ten (10) business days prior to the film date. Your request will be evaluated based on the information in your application. Applicants should attach maps, diagrams, and other information that might assist park staff in evaluating the application. Mail the completed application and \$100.00 application fee to:  
Permit Coordinator  
Mount Rainier National Park  
55210 238th Avenue East  
Ashford, WA 98304  
For more information, call (360) 569-6622.

## Additional Fees

For more complex permit operations, or for activities which require coordination with other visitor use, and for those which are perceived to have the potential to impact park resources without proper supervision and care, at least one employee of the National Park Service will be assigned to the film/photography crew. The permittee will be responsible for reimbursing the park for NPS monitoring. These costs will be included in the estimate of site use charges. Any additional costs will be recovered at the conclusion of the permit.

The applicant or permittee is required to notify the NPS of any delays or schedule changes at least 36 hours in advance, or as agreed to by the Superintendent. Should

the applicant or permittee fail to provide such advance notification, the applicant or permittee is responsible for paying all costs incurred by the NPS anytime during the application, permitting, or operational process, including those due to cancellation, moving, or rescheduling of the project. Such payment will include but not be limited to a non-refundable charge for each staff person scheduled for the affected activity. Such charge will, at a minimum, be the equivalent of two hours overtime for each employee assigned. These costs may be recovered through the posting of a bond at the time of application, or through a bill for collection presented at any point after initial contact.

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## Restrictions & Conditions

A filming or photography permit does not allow the permittee to restrict park visitors from any location; therefore, sites which attract a large number of visitors should be avoided as well as filming during peak visitor use hours. Normal visitor use patterns will not be interrupted for long periods of time and are only allowed as specified in the approved permit. Film/photography permit activities may not occur simultaneously with other permitted activities or unduly conflict with scheduled public activities. Visitors will be allowed to watch filming.

Restrictions and conditions will be enumerated in the permit. The following activities are restricted and must be approved on a case by case basis: 1) use of children or animals, 2) discharge of blank ammunition and all black powder weapons, 3) mechanical or pyrotechnic special effects,

4) stunts, 5) amplified music or sound, 6) placing of large set dressings, 7) filming photography inside interiors of government administrative work areas, 8) film equipment or activities on roadways, 9) access to closed areas or access to areas during non-visitor use hours. The permit will specify the number of people and the exact types of equipment allowed. Activities not specified in the permit will not be allowed by the NPS monitor on duty. Please note that the permit does not include authority to film or photograph individuals. Model releases are the responsibility of the permittee. Permit activities may be restricted based on weather or seasonal conditions (fire danger, standing water after rain, nesting season, etc.). Additional closures, use limits and/or restricted activities are listed in the Superintendent's Compendium.

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## Prohibited Activities

Activities having the potential to damage or significantly impact or alter park resources are prohibited. The following are also prohibited: 1) altering, damaging or removing vegetation, 2) vehicle use off established roads and parking areas, 3) use of insecticides, herbicides and pesticides, 4) loud noises (60 decibels or higher) between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., 5) use of fragile vegetation areas, 6) flying aircraft below FAA recommended minimum

altitude (usually 2,000 feet) or landing of aircraft, 7) writing on or discoloring any natural feature or structure. Harassment of wildlife is prohibited by law. Filming of wildlife is permitted as long as there is no disturbance, feeding, teasing, or manipulation of resident or free roaming animals. Wildlife captured elsewhere may not be used in any in-park filming, whether trained or not.

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## Insurance & Bonding

General liability insurance must be carried by the permittee showing the U.S. Government, National Park Service, Mount Rainier National Park address as additionally insured. Short term policies must show coverage on "occurrence" basis. The minimum amount of commercial liability insurance is one million dollars. Additional amounts may be required for high risk activities. Certain activities may

trigger the need for the permittee to post a refundable damage bond. The amount of the bond will be equivalent to the estimated cost to NPS for clean up, repair or rehabilitation of resources or facilities that could potentially be impacted by the permit activities. At the conclusion of the permit, the bond will be returned to the permittee after costs of clean up, repair or rehabilitation are deducted. All

## **Termination of Permit**

filming or photography permits issued by the National Park Service are “revocable” on 24 hours notice, or without notice if the terms of the permit are violated. Deliberate infractions of the terms of the filming permit or the deliberate making of false or misleading statements concerning intended actions in order to obtain

a permit are causes for immediate termination of the permit and cause for possible prosecution. Permits will be revoked if damage to resources or facilities is threatened, or if there is a clear danger to public health or safety, or structure.